

# Football Sports Boards

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**1. Q. How much can I charge per square?**

*A. \$.01 up to \$25*

**2. Q. What is the most that a \$25/square board can pay out?**

*A. A 25 square board which charges \$25 per chance can pay no more than \$625; a similar 100 square board can pay no more than \$2,500.*

**3. Q. Can I have a board that only pays out on the final score of a football game?**

*A. Yes, as long as the payout to the winner equals the total value of the board. One exception applies: A nonprofit organization that offers the sports pool board as a way of raising funds to support charitable activities, scholastic grants, or community service projects, may retain up to 50% of the proceeds from the sale of chances in the sports pool.*

**4. Q. Is there a way I can create a separate board for each quarter or interval?**

*A. No, because each board must also have a winner based upon the final score. (Example: 1st quarter winner receives \$25 for matching the numbers at the end of the first quarter, a second winner matches the final score and wins the remaining \$25 of \$2x25 space board) Remember, if you want boards that pay out quarters (intervals), the final score always has to be included as a payout as well. That final score payout has to be equal to or greater than the value of any other interval payouts.*

**5. Q. How many boards can I run for each game?**

*A. There is no limit to the number of boards you can run per game.*

**6. Q. What happens if I don't sell all the spaces on the board before the game?**

*A. The bar or individual selling the spaces have to buy any remaining squares*

**7. Q. Where should I store the money for each board?**

*A. The money for each board should be kept in a safe location, but must be made available for inspection. Money should be kept in separate envelopes (or other method for segregating the money) and the envelopes should be labeled to correspond with the board it represents. Inspectors should be able to come into the bar, randomly pick a fully sold or partially sold board*

*and count the money specific to that board. No charitable proceeds should be removed from the proceeds until after the outcome of the game.*

**8. Q. Can I lock the sports board money in the safe until it's paid out?**

*A. Yes, as long as it is made available for inspection upon request of a Gambling Investigator, or local law enforcement officer, and so long as each envelope corresponds to an associated board.*

**9. Q. I use a Point-of-sale (POS) system for all my sales in the bar, can I run the sports board sales through the POS system if I have a special code for the transaction and keep the deposits separate from the rest?**

*A. A POS system has not yet been approved for tracking sports boards. However, it is currently under review. At this time, all sports board monies have to be paid out from the money collected (individual envelopes created) from the sale of spaces for each board. No checks or till money may be used to pay sports pool winners. Prizes must be paid in full and in cash.*

**10. Q. Can I accept checks or credit cards for the sale of sports pool chances?**

*A. No. The sale of sports pool chances must be in cash only.*

**11. Q. I've heard different stories on how to properly set up a board, any suggestions?**

*A. Administrative rules define the rules, so when in doubt, contact any of the Gambling Control offices. Master square boards are the most common, where it is divided into horizontal and vertical rows. BEFORE ANY SQUARES ARE SOLD, the sports board card has to clearly indicate the following:*

- a. Rules for conducting the sports pool*
  - b. name of the sports event (ie: Super Bowl) covered by the card*
  - c. name of the competitors in the sports event, if known (Broncos v. Seahawks)*
  - d. date of sports event*
  - e. total number of chances available in pool (25, 100)*
  - f. cost for each chance*
  - g. total amount to be paid to each winner*
  - h. predetermined intervals for which a prize will be awarded, if any.*
  - i. name of person or bar conducting the sports pool*
  - j. name or initials of participants who have purchased chances written in their bought space.*
  - k. value of each individual prize and total of all prizes (1<sup>st</sup> qtr-\$10, 2<sup>nd</sup> qtr-\$10, 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr-\$10, final score \$20 for total of \$50.00 on a 25 square/\$2 a chance board).*
  - l. name of the competitors and the date of a sports event that will be substituted for the original sports event if cancelled.*
- Once the winners are determined for each prize, their names must be prominently displayed on each board.*

**12. Q. When do I assign numbers to the horizontal and vertical rows?**

*A. Once you close the pool, numbers are then to be randomly assigned to the horizontal and vertical rows. Any unsold spaces at that point are considered purchased by the bar or person sponsoring the board and that person or entity must mark those spaces as sold.*

**13. Q. How long do I need to keep my sports boards after the football game(s)?**

*A. A sports pool card/board must be held for at least 90 days from the date of the sports event and made available for inspection upon request. The names of the sports pool winner(s) must be prominently displayed on each board.*

**14. Q. When do I have to award the prizes?**

*A. Prizes must be awarded at the conclusion of the sports event (or series of sports events), or as soon thereafter as the winner appears to claim her prize.*

**15. Q. Can merchandise be awarded as prizes?**

*A. Yes, you can award merchandise as the prize(s) to the winner(s) of the sports pool. However, a prize in the form of merchandise must be identified before the sale of any chances; the purchase price of the merchandise must equal the value of winning square, or the difference in value must be paid in cash to the winner. Proof of the purchase price of merchandise must be retained for at least 90 days from the date of the sports event.*

**16. Q. When do the team names have to be placed on the board?**

*A. If the teams are known prior to starting the board, they need to be placed on the board. If they are not known at the time (usually during play-offs or the Super Bowl) then it's recommended you put down Home or Visitor/NFC or AFC/ or leave blank until the teams are known. You are required to have the two teams on the board prior to the start of the game. It is your preference which team (Home or Visitor) goes on the horizontal axis or the vertical axis of the board.*

**17. Q. What size boards are approved?**

*A. 25, 50 or 100 square board.*

**18. Q. If I have any questions, who do I call?**

*A. Please contact the Gambling Control Division or visit the State of Montana Dept. of Justice, Gambling Control Division website to get the most up to date FAQ Sports Board sheet, for office locations and phone numbers. The main Helena number is 406-444-1971. Website is: <https://doj.mt.gov/gaming/>*